



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

J. F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203

July 8, 1985

William F. Lawless, P.E., Chief
Regulatory Branch
Operations Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England Division
424 Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA 02254

Site:	NEW BEDFORD
Break:	4.1
Other:	48429

Attention: Permit No. MA. NERS-84-194

Dear Mr. Lawless:

We received a copy of a letter that was sent to Alan Randall of your staff concerning a proposal to lease the illegally filled site north of the North Terminal site in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to four commercial enterprises. Alan Randall requested our comments on this proposal.

The EPA objects to proposed lease arrangements which would conflict with any proposal to use this site as a disposal site for dredged material. This site was identified as a potential disposal site for dredged material. Approximately 147,000 cubic yards of dredged material could be placed at this site if a new bulkhead were permitted. This proposal, however, requires filling of several acres of harbor waters.

Another proposal recently put forth in the Environmental Assessment (May 1985) for the Replacement of the New Bedford - Fairhaven Bridge, identifies this site as a potential disposal site for 17,000 cubic yards of non-hazardous (less than 50 ppm) PCB contaminated dredge spoil from their project. This option is the Number 2 preferred option by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works (DPW) for that project. We at EPA believe this is a good disposal option and prefer it to other alternatives that would require filling of the harbor.

Disposal of dredged material is a serious problem in the Acushnet Estuary. This site could accommodate dredged material disposal without precluding future development of the site. The proposal by DPW is similar to that which was used at the adjacent R.M. Packer Company land leased from the New Bedford Harbor Development Commission.

Thank you for your continued coordination with us on this issue. Please call Edward Reiner of my staff at (617)223-3908 for further coordination in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Butler, Chief
Planning and Standards Section

cc: USFWS, Concord, NH, ATTN: Nancy Hansen - MADPW, Boston, MA, ATTN: Walter Williams
MADEQE DWPC, Boston, MA, ATTN: Judy Perry - NMFS, Gloucester, MA, ATTN: Sue Roe